

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 AID-20 PC-04 OMB-01 EUR-25 NIC-01 OPR-02

COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 DOTE-00 OC-06 CCO-00

RSR-01 /152 W

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O R 041733Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5104

INFO DOD/DIA

USCINCSO

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.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, PINT, PINS

SUBJ: CABINET OFFERS RESIGNATION

REF: SANTIAGO 3476

1. SUMMARY: CABINET OFFERS RESIGNATION TO "GIVE PRESIDENT FREE HAND", HOWEVER, IT UNCLERAR WHETHER ALLENDE HAS ACCEPTED OR REFUSED OFFER. PDC RESPONDS TO ALLENDE BY TERMING PRESIDENT'S LETTER "UNSATISFACTORY" AND URGING PRES. TO MAKE NECESSARY "POLITICAL DECISIONS" AND INCORPORATE MILITARY INTO CABINET. PRESS REPORTS TRANSPORT STRIKE GENERALIZED THROUGHOUT COUNTRY. UP AND CUT CALL FOR VOLUNTERY WORK ACTION TO MINIMIZE STRIKE'S EFFECTS AND DENOUNCE NEW "OCTOBER". END SUMMARY.

2. IN EARLY EVENING MEETING AUG. 3 ALLENDE RECEIVED RESIGNATION OFFER FROM ENTIRE CABINET TO GIVE HIM "FREE HAND" IN DEALING WITH CURRENT CRISIS. PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE OF INFORMATION CHARACTERIZED ACTION AS "FRIENDLY GESTURE OF CORDIALITY AND SUPPORT FOR
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PRESIDENT" AND STATES THAT PRES. REJECTED RESIGNATIONS. OPPOSITION

PRESS ACCOUNTS, HOWEVER, QUOTE ANOTHER SOURCE, WHOM PDC-OWNED LA PRENSA IDENTIFIES AS MINTRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS MARTONES, AS STATING THAT MINISTERS WILL REMAIN AT DESKS AS "RESIGNEES" (DIMISIONARIOS). ALLENDE HAD STATED IN AUG. 2 LETTER TO AYLWIN AND REPEATED IN NOONTIME PRESS CONFERENCE AUG. 3 THAT "TO CHANGE CABINET ONLY ONE MONTH AFTER IT HAS ASSUMED OFFICE WOULD OFFER NO SOLUTION" TO CURRENT SITUATION.

3. NECESSITY OF FORMING "NEW CABINET THAT WOULD RETURN CONFIDENCE TO CHILEAN PEOPLE AND ASSURE RULE OF LAW AND CONSTITUTION" ONCE AGAIN STRESSED BY PDC NATIONAL LEADERSHIP IN ITS AUG. 3 DECLARATION RESPONDING TO ALLENDE'S LETTER OF PREVIOUS DAY. IN DECLARATION AND IN LATER EVENING RADIO ADDRESS BY PDC PRES AYLWIN, PARTY WELCOMED PRESIDENT'S DISPOSITION TO PROMULGATE THREE AREAS AMENDMENT, AND REAFFIRMED PDC'S WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE IN DRAFTING AND PASSING NEW CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO PREVENT ABUSE OF CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM MECHANISM. AYLWIN HOWEVER CHARACTERIZED ALLENDE'S RESPONSE AS "UNSATISFACTORY" AND STATED THAT UNFORTUNATELY PRESIDENT "HAS DIFFERENT PERCEPTION THAN THAT OF MAJORITY OF CHILEANS OF THE SERIOUSNESS AND URGENCY OF PROBLEMS WHICH CONFRONT NATION". DECLARATION ENDS WITH EXHORTATION THAT NATION'S "EXTREME SITUATION" CALLS FOR "URGENT POLITICAL DECISIONS", RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHICH FALL ENTIRELY UPON PRESIDENT. AYLWIN'S EVENING ADDRESS LARGELY DEVOTED TO REPETITION OF PDC LINE AND STATEMENT OF ITS BARGAINING POSITION, BUT PERHAPS IN REFLECTION OF EARLY EVENING NOTICE OF CABINET RESIGNATION, AYLWIN STRESSED EVEN MORE THAN HE HAD IN HIS LETTER IMPORTANCE OF PRESIDENT "NAMING CABINET WITH INSTITUTIONAL PARTICIPATION OF ARMED FORCES."

4. ACCORDING TO AUG. 4 OPPOSITION PRESS, TRANSPORT STRIKE NEARLY TOTAL NATIONWIDE. MORNING TRAFFIC DOWNTOWN SANTIAGO VERY MUCH LIGHTER THAN USUAL SATURDAY NORM OWING TO CONTINUED LACK OF GAS AND FACT THAT FEW PRIVATELY-OWNED BUSES ON STREETS. PRES. NAMED GEN. HERMAN BRADY AS INTERVENTOR OF ALL STRIKING PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION BUT TOLD AUG. 3 PRESS CONFERENCE (REFTEL) THAT HE WOULD NOT ACCEDE TO DEMAND THAT TRANSPORT UNDER SECY FAIVOVICH BE SIDELINED AS INTERVENTOR OF STRIKING TRUCKS EVEN THOUGH FAIVOVICH'S RESIGNATION ON HIS DESK. PRES. CLASSIFIED VILARIN'S GROUP AS "DELINQUENTS" AND BLAMED PATRIA Y LIBERTAD FOR "182 TERRORIST ATTEMPTS" PERPETRATED WITHIN LAST 10 DAYS.

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5. ACTS OF VIOLENCE CONTINUE TO BE REPORTED IN COUNTRY. PRO-GOVT RADIO STATIONS REPORT MORNING ARREST BY INVESTIGATIONS POLICE OF FOUR PATRIA Y LIBERTAD MEMBERS ASSOCIATED WITH ARAYA ASSASSINATION.

6. NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF MICROBUS AND TAXIBUS OWNERS CENSURED FOUR OF ITS OWN LEADERS, JUAN MARINOKIS, RAUL CONCHA, CARLOS ZUNIGA

AND ERNESTO CISTERNAS FOR ISSUING STATEMENT AUG. 3 OPPOSING ORGANIZATION'S STRIKE. GROUP ALSO REPORTEDLY VOTED TO REMOVE CISTERNAS AS ITS REPRESENTATIVE TO NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF GROUND TRANSPORT (RODADO) HEADED BY JUAN JARA. RADIO REPORT INDICATES THAT BOMB EXPLODED EARLY MORNING AUG. 4 AT CISTERNAS' HOUSE AND THAT HE NOW HAS POLICE PROTECTION.

7. AUG. 4 LA TERCERA REPORTS THAT SANTIAGO FACH BASES ON "STATE OF ALERT" AND QUOTES INFORMED SOURCES AS STATING THAT HELICOPTERS SEEN FLYING OVER CITY YESTERDAY WAS AIR FORCE PRECAUTIONARY MOVE TO OBSERVE INDUSTRIAL AREAS IN WAKE OF SURPRISE FACH ARMS SEARCH AT COBRE CERILLOS (REFTEL). UP PARTIES AND MARXIST-CUT LEADERSHIP CALLING FOR VOLUNTEER WORK ACTION TO MINIMIZE STRIKE EFFECTS AND TO STOP ANOTHER "SEDITIONOUS OCTOBER SHUTDOWN". GROUP KNOWN AS MOVEMENT OF PATRIOTIC VOLUNTEERS HAS BEEN FORMED. ITS FIRST ORDER OF DAY, AS PUBLISHED IN COMMUNIST PARTY DAILY EL SIGLO, CALLS ON MEMBERS TO REPORT LOCATION OF STRIKING TRUCKS.

8. COMMENT: POSSIBILITY OF CABINET RESIGNATION AND APPARENT BREAKDOWN IN DIALOGUE ATTEMPT ONCE AGAIN INCREASE SPECULATION ABOUT MILITARY ENTRANCE INTO GOVT. HOWEVER, AS YET THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS THAT MILITARY, PARTICULARLY AIR FORCE AND NAVY, ARE ANY LESS INSISTENT UPON THEIR DEMANDS FOR TOTAL CONTROL OF VARIOUS MINISTRIES. NOR ARE THERE INDICATIONS THAT UP PARTIES, NOTABLY PS, HAVE RELINQUISHED POSITION WHICH STRONGLY OPPOSES ENTRANCE OF MILITARY INTO GOVT IN SUCH FORCE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SANTIA03477
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730857/aaaabptt.tel
Line Count: 145
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 SANTIAGO 3476
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <31-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CABINET OFFERS RESIGNATION
TAGS: PINT, PINS, CI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005